

*Montana*  
*Comprehensive Assessment*  
*System (MontCAS, Phase 2)*  
*Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)*

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE  
READING, GRADE 3

2008



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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# Reading

## Session 3

*Read this story about Melanie and the sun. Then answer the questions that follow.*

### **The Day the Sun Waited in the Sky**

*by Aretha Nadine McKinney*

“Melanie,” her mother called. “Melanie, when the sun touches the tops of the trees it will be time for you to come in and wash up for dinner.”

“O.K., Mom,” Melanie called back. As soon as her mother was inside the house, Melanie turned toward the sun that already sat low in the sky. The sun had turned a brilliant orange color. “Sun,” Melanie called out, “you must stay in the sky a little longer tonight. I’m not ready to go inside. I’m not ready to quit playing today. I’m not even hungry for dinner.”

The sun did not reply. Melanie noticed, however, that the sun wasn’t moving. Surely, she thought, it must have heard her. Melanie filled a blue pail with sand and continued to make towers around her sandcastle. Time passed. Melanie glanced back up at the sun, and, to her surprise, it had moved closer to the treetops.

“Sun,” Melanie said, standing up straight and tall with her hands on her hips, “didn’t you hear me? You must stay in the sky a little longer. I’m not ready to go inside. I’m not ready to quit playing today. I’m not even hungry for dinner.”

The sun did not reply. Melanie noticed again, however, that it wasn’t moving. This time she was certain that the sun heard her. Melanie yawned as she began digging a moat in the sand. Time passed. When Melanie looked up again, the sun was edging the treetops.



What! Melanie thought. This cannot be.

Just then Melanie’s mom called from the back door, “It’s time to come inside and wash up for dinner, Melanie.”

Melanie’s stomach growled. She was hungry. Melanie yawned. She was tired. “O.K.,” she said. She stood up and dusted her hands on her pants. Maybe the sun did hear my request, she thought. Maybe the sun waited to reach the treetops until it knew my sandcastle was done and I was hungry. Yes, of course the sun heard me!

“Sun,” Melanie called out, “thank you for waiting to reach the treetops. Now I’m ready to go inside. I’m ready to quit playing today. I’m tired and hungry for dinner.”

The sun beamed out over the trees. And before Melanie's eyes, the sun turned dark pink and began sinking slowly behind the trees. The sky turned shades of orange and

pink and yellow. As she stared in amazement at the beautiful colors, Melanie was almost sure that she heard the sun say, "You're welcome!"

45. How do Melanie's feelings change from the beginning to the end of this story? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how Melanie's feelings change from the beginning to the end. Explanation includes specific, relevant details from the story.
3	Response provides an explanation of how Melanie's feelings change from the beginning to the end. Explanation includes supporting details from the story but lacks specificity, relevance, and/or development.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how Melanie's feelings change from the beginning to the end. Explanation includes limited details from the story and/or is partially incorrect.
1	Response makes a vague or minimal statement about how Melanie's feelings change from the beginning to the end.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

### Scoring Notes

- At the beginning of the story, Melanie has no hard feelings toward the sun.
- Melanie thinks the sun will listen to her (do what she asks) when she tells it to stay in the sky.
- When she sees that the sun has indeed moved, she becomes angry at the sun (she stands with her hands on her hips).
- At the end of the story, Melanie is thankful toward the sun for having remained in the sky for as long as it did.
- At the end of the story, Melanie is amazed to see the sun's beautiful colors.

In the beginning she felt a little ~~skid~~ because she told the sun you must stay in the sky a little longer tonight. I'm not ready to go inside. I'm not ready to quit playing today. I'm not even hungry for dinner. Then she got mad later on in the day because when she was making towers around her sandcastle she looked and noticed that the sun had went down some. At the end she was happy because she said it again but the sun still went down. By then she was hungry and ready to go inside.

Melanie feels angry in the  
beginning because, her mom tells  
her when the sun touches  
the treetop she has to  
go inside and wash up  
and have dinner and  
go to bed. Melanie  
feels happy at the end  
because, the sun listened  
to Melanie when she  
talked to the sun  
and she also felt sleepy  
and hungry.

Score Point 2

at first she is sad because she doesn't want  
to go inside, but at the end she is happy  
because the sun let ' her stay out  
longer.



In the beginning Melanie feels mad that  
She wants to play longer in the she feels  
happy.

Melanie's feelings change from the beginning to the end of this story because when she eats dinner the sun rose.

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